4-15-99

OPINION

Discussion of 1500 year war between Serbs and ethnic Albanians.

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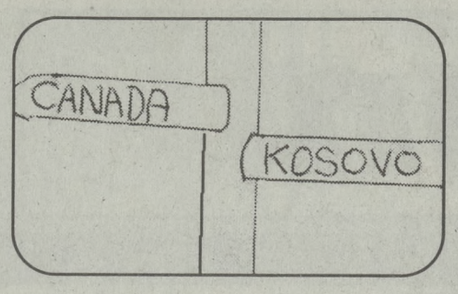


FEATURE

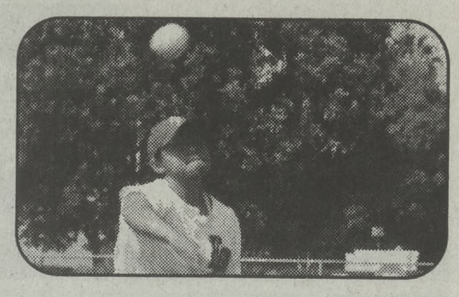
Former Valley College student follows her dream.

PAGE 3

SPORTS

Softball: Lady Monarchs lose to Bakersfield 18-4, but overcome team size.

PAGE 4



The Los Angeles Valley Star

www.lavc.cc.ca.us

VOLUME 52 , ISSUE 8 | **SERVING VALLEY COLLEGE FOR 50 YEARS** | **THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 1999**

CAMPUS SCENE

PIZZA NIGHT

Culture Clash performers will be at CLUE's pizza night on April 18 from 6 to 10 p.m. at Numero Uno on Victory Boulevard and Coldwater Canyon Avenue. A percentage of purchases will benefit CLUE's Youth Conference.

JEWISH AWARENESS

In honor of Jewish Awareness Month, Hillel will be hosting various events during April.

•Krav Maga: There will be an Israeli self-defense demonstration class on April 15.

•Magic: Magician Howard Jay will perform on April 22.

•Steve Springer: L.A. times sportswriter will share stories about the world of sports. Admissions to all events are free. They will be held at 19720 Ventura Blvd., Suite G in Corbin Village.

For more information call (818) 887-5901.

UNIVERSITY REPS

Appointments to meet with university representatives can be made three working days in advance at the Career/ Transfer Center in Administration Room 126 or by calling (818) 947-2646.

•Cal State Northridge on April 19 and 26 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Administration Room 126.

•American Intercontinental University on April 21 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Monarch Square.

•University California Santa Cruz and Irvine on April 27 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

SHAKESPEARE

A presentation on William Shakespeare will be held on April 21 at 7:15 p.m. in Monarch Hall. Professors Ross McLean, Robert Metzger, Jean Stearns and John Zounes will show why they think Shakespeare is as significant today as he was in the 16th century.

SENIOR DAY

High school students will be taken on a tour of the campus on April 27 and 28 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be a club day atmosphere and workshops held. Anyone interested in volunteering can call Synthia Saltoun at (818) 947-2626.

Education unites cultures at 'clash'

By JANEE LOWE
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Education through unity and music was the goal for Club Latino United for Education when it held Culture Clash '99 on Tuesday from noon to 4 p.m. in Monarch Hall.

92.3 The Beat's Fidel Rodriguez spoke about the Hip Hop Culture, New World Order and the crisis going on in Southern Mexico with the indigenous Zapatista National Liberation Army and how our lack of knowledge can lead to our destruction. Awareness of one's culture and other's was also a topic of discussion. Rodriguez stressed the importance of how knowledge is power and by being co-producer of "Street Science" and hosting "Seditious Beats," his voice is being heard.

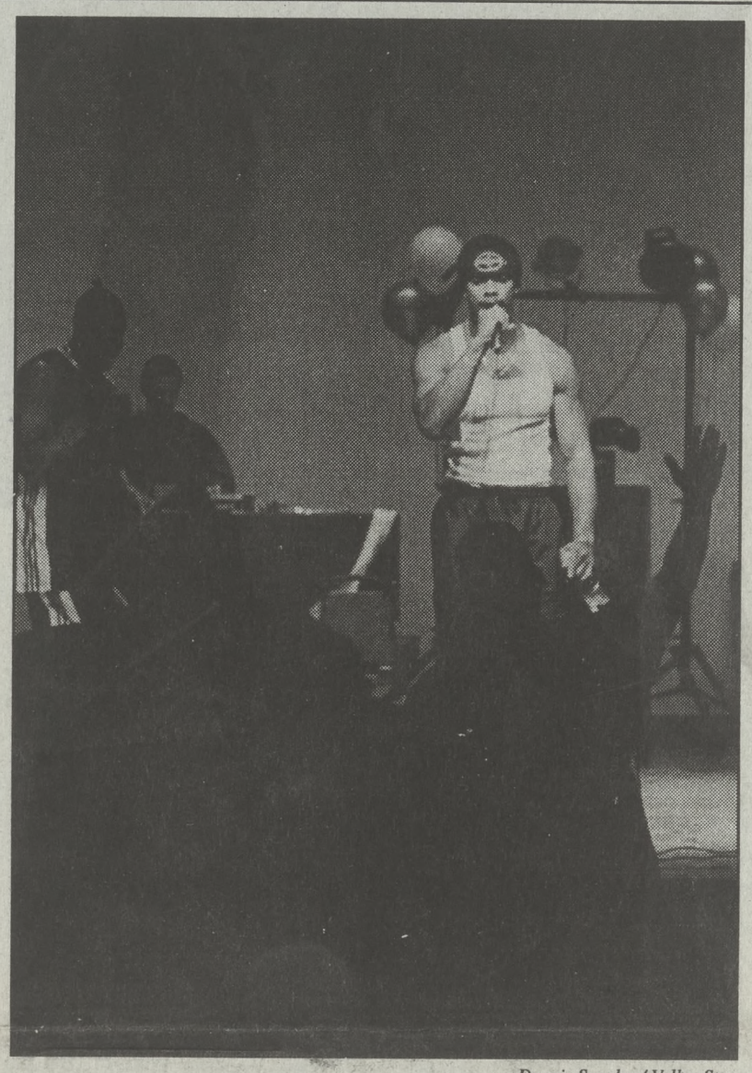
Rodriguez was chosen to be the guest speaker because of his good presentation and because everyone would get into his topics, master of ceremonies Brian Kingston said. Kingston is also CLUE's publicity director.

"It's about bringing a halt to being categorized," John Pena, president of CLUE said. "Let us all have one title, the title of student. The students are not informed. Through unity we can be informed"

There were live cultural performances by "Latin Froz," "Sounds of Emotions," "Da River People," "Lost Identity", "L.A. Breakers," "6th Man," Valley College's dance department., "Tiny Big Boss" and "Street Platoon."

"Thank you for your participation and hard work and support," Pena said of CLUE's members who helped organize the event, arrange entertainment, coordinate the bands and assure crowd control."Which brings us back to our purpose, united we stand, divided we fall."

CLUE meets on Tuesdays from 11:00 to noon in Foreign Language 108. For more information call (818) 829-1520.



Dennis Sanchez/ Valley Star

"Latin Froz" was one of the many performers at Culture Clash '99 held in Monarch Hall on Tuesday at noon.

Health fair held at Valley

By DENNIS SANCHEZ
STAR REPORTER

The Health Fair Expo once again came to Valley College on Wednesday.

The annual Health Fair was held at Monarch Square and in Monarch Hall from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

There were more than 55 booths and exhibits set up at Monarch Square with information about nutrition, counseling, and other health care related matters.

Health screenings were held in Monarch Hall. The screenings included body fat testing, vision, blood pressure, anxiety and depression testing.

Many students attended the Health Fair such as Francisco Vasquez. "It's here, it's free, why not."

Free HIV testing was done by the North East Valley Health Corporation and TB testing was done by the West Valley Public Health Center.

The event was coordinated by Barbara Perlman, clinical manager at the Student Health Center. The fair was hosted by the center and the college.

Many college clubs, volunteers, as well as the Valley College nursing program students participated at the event.

Programs build bigger bridges

■VOLUNTEER:
The first volunteer fair will be held with 20 participating volunteer agencies at Valley College.

By ALEXIS SCALICE
STAR REPORTER

Taking another step forward, the Service Learning Program at Valley College will be holding its first Volunteer Fair on Wednesday in Monarch Square from 10 a.m. to noon.

The festivities will feature more than 20 volunteer agencies. Following the fair will be the fourth annual Agency Focus Group meeting in the Cafeteria Conference Room at 1:30 p.m. Valley College president Tyree Wieder will welcome the attending agencies, faculty and representative students.

Director Rick Brossman said the goal of this event is to continue building bridges with the community. "This allows students to become more motivated academically and thereby enhancing their chances for career success," Brossman said.

The objectives of the focus group will include determining the unmet needs each agency is facing and offer input pertaining to the most productive use of student volunteers. It will also provide information concerning other agencies projects and an open forum to discuss how the Program can be more beneficial to the participating agencies and faculty members.

The Program was created in Fall '96 with 20 agencies, 10 faculty members and 40 students participating. In an effort to further expand the Program, Brossman constructed a proposal for a $50,000 grant.

Once approved by the Chancellor's office of the California Sate Community Colleges, Coordinator Desiree De La Garza and Secretary Marylin Habert were hired. The program has signed up more than 60 agencies, enrolled more than 100 students and attracted 25 faculty members.

Flourishing with new ideas, Brossman has once again attempted to submit another grant, this time for $125,000. If approved, the income will provide additional full time employment for the program as well as two student workers.

Brossman said the future goal is to eventually develop the Program throughout the district.

"The state would like us to replicate it [program]," said Brossman. "Glendale gave us

ASU elections come to a close

By DENNIS SANCHEZ
STAR REPORTER

Valley College held its Associated Student Union government elections on Tuesday and Wednesday at Monarch Square.

Student voters selected candidates for president, vice-president, treasurer, commissioner of campus and environmental concerns, evening division, public relations, political affairs and student social affairs.

Thirteen candidates are running for election for nine offices pertaining to Valley College. There are three board of trustee candidates on the ballot.

There were three candidates running for president, Greg Hagopian, Leon Harding and Leslie Channon. All three candidates addressed the same topic of greater participation and involvement between the ASU and the students.

Hagopian, an ASU parliamentarian is looking for the ASU to take a more active role in student grievances. He wants to advocate student's rights.

Dennis Sanchez/ Valley Star

Students participated in the ASU elections by voting.

Hardin, former vice-president in the ASU has found it hard to acquire resources to further help his participation with his studies. And he believes the ASU should help students by making resources more available.

Channon, the commissioner of fine arts is looking for the ASU to have more of an influence on students lives and get more involved in student dilemmas. Channon is looking to clean up the bathrooms and the cafeteria, as well as keeping the student body informed on matters and events.

Candidates for vice president were Nanci Armstrong, who is the commissioner of public relations and Justine Lozano the commissioner of ethnic and cultural affairs.

The two candidates for treasurer were Deborah Greenspan and David Sanford. Commissioner of campus and environmental concerns had only one candidate, Armen Buniatgon. The commissioner of evening division also had only one candidate, Vahe Nakashyan. And Alex Shapiro was the only student running for the office of commissioner of public relations. and Sue Hanakafs was the only candidate for commissioner of student and social affairs.The candidates for commissioner of political affairs were D.D. Pawley and Diana Sarkisova.

Election results are available today.

Two offices remain open, one for commissioner of fine arts and one for commissioner of athletics.

Crime Watch

By JOHN MAROT
STAR REPORTER

Crimes for March 17 to April 14 at Valley College.

•**Mar. 17:** A pair of pants containing various items were stolen from the Men's Gym.

•**Mar. 18:** A stereo was stolen from a car in Parking Lot D.

•**Mar. 19:** Two watches were stolen from a car in Parking Lot D.

•**April 7:** A pager was stolen from the bookstore.

•**April 7:** Compact Discs were stolen from a car in Parking Lot A.

•**April 9:** One hundred and eighty dollars were stolen from a student at the cafeteria.

Valley College journalism students won the following awards in the Journalism Association of community Colleges conference in Fresno on April 9 and 10.

Mail-in awards:

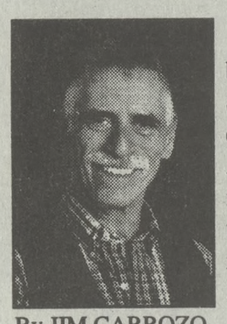
•**Creative media general excellence**: Crown magazine; **in-depth news:** Alexis Scalice; and **inside page layout (standard):** fourth place, Mike Roche

On the spot awards

•**Copy editing**: fourth place, Anita Torres; **critical review:** honorable mention, Jim Carrozo; **feature photo:** honorable mention, Kathy Lusting; and **team feature writing-photo**: honorable mention, Julio Cortez and Marcy Petrique

The Senior Freshman....

The Balkans: A 1500 year family feud



By JIM CARROZO
STAR REPORTER

The fight between Serbs and ethnic Albanians is one of those long running struggles spanning many centuries, common in and around the Balkans and Eastern Europe.

It is a struggle for national and religious identity, and is essentially over two of the dumbest of all questions, "What is God's name?" and "To whom did God entrust the land we both occupy?"

The Albanians call God "Allah," and his prophet, "Muhammed." They claim descendancy from the ancient Illyrians who lived in that part of the Balkans now known as Kosovo some 2,700 years ago.

The Serbs say God goes by the name of "Jehovah" and has a main man called "Jesus." They got to the area about 500 AD, and take issue with the Albanians claim that they arrived first. They've been fighting over this for 1500 years.

The population has endlessly shifted over time. Sometimes the Serbs were the majority, sometimes the Albanians, but they always fought over these two absurd questions. Even during the 500 year span when the Turks ruled over both groups, the fundamentalist factions of each side continued to terrorize each other.

In modern times, the ethnic Albanians of Kosovo actually were granted autonomy, but only for a few years during World War II. With the arrival of Marshall Tito after the war, it was dissolved and the area was reclaimed as part of Yugoslavia. Then, with the fall of Communism all hell broke loose.

Ancient vendettas, never fully squelched by totalitarian rule, resurfaced with greater scorn than ever. The result: torture, brutal beatings and murder. The Serbian government ruled but they were in the minority in Kosovo and had to face the angry reactions of the ethnic Albanian majority.

Many Serbs complained of harrassment and public intimidation. Others reported being beaten by Albanian gangs. Most of this was the work of thugs and not of the day-to-day Albanian working person, but it was a serious reaction to institutional and social oppression by the Serbian government.

A perspective that needs to be offered here is the fact that neither side is blameless. They had already been victimizing each other for a thousand years when Columbus sailed to the new world.

Our present media orchestrated perception is of suffering Albanians and demonized Serbs. Remember however these are people not governments. Until recently, like Arabs and Jews in certain parts of Jerusalem, they interacted peaceably during their daily routines. Those that fought, fought with a vengence, but most maintained a peaceful, if guarded co-existence, just doing everyday things in their everyday lives.

The real demons are terrorists and governments. The real victims are the people of both sides who now suffer in such grotesque and horrible ways.

The question is why are we involved, and since we are, what next? If we learned nothing else from Vietnam it should have been not to enter a war unless we intend to win and then take every action necessary to do so.

Ground troops are a frightening prospect but a very real one. Young men and women not unlike some of you may be shipped off to fight what might well be an unbeatable foe. Will you go if your country calls? Will you feel right about refereeing and policing this ancient family feud? During Vietnam some of us went to Siagon and some of us moved to Toronto.

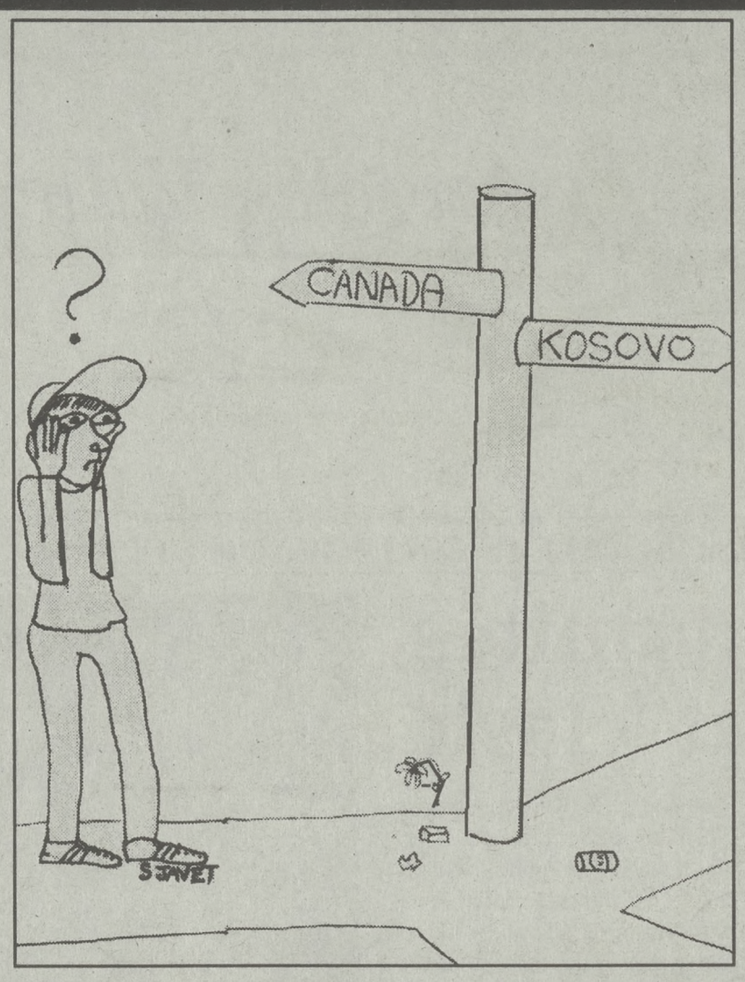
It's now estimated that more than one million people are running for their lives. They're swelling the borders and straining the economies of the countries they're entering. The big picture is frightening when you consider the potential for disaster if the other countries in the area start to disagree. More old grudges will surface.

If Turkey gets involved, the Armenians are not far behind for they harbor no love for the Turks. Greece is already challenging NATO and even Italy is protesting their use of Italian air bases as launching pads.

Russia has condemned this dangerous game of dominoes and want NATO out. They don't want U.S. war machines anywhere near Russian soil and that just might be what saves the day, because Russia would be well served to lean on "Slobbo" and make him back off.

In the words of talk show host Larry Elder, it could get real ugly when the "fit hits the shan." In any case we're in it, and it could be a long time before we get out.

Where do you plan on being next New Years Eve, Kosovo or Canada? Let me know at SrFresh@aol.com.



Editorial:

Reality of war

As our country continues its involvement with the war in Kosovo, it has become normal to hear about it every day.

Evening news reports are filled with any new information available to reporters and the front pages of newspapers have displayed photos of the devastated country for weeks. We all know what is happening, but it is doubtful that many of us can comprehend it.

Many Americans still remember the Vietnam war that happened a little more than 30 years ago, and even more can recall the Persian Gulf war of less than a decade ago. But just because we remember them doesn't mean that we understand them.

To most Americans, being involved in a war means that our lives continue almost exactly as normal, except for the occasional breaking news reports that interrupt the sitcoms that are so important to us.

It is hard to blame ourselves however because we really are sheltered. Our only neighboring countries are Canada and Mexico, and, knock on wood, they don't seem to have a problem with each other.

Because of this, it is hard for us to put ourselves in the place of the majority of the world who are surrounded by people who differ in everything from language and culture to political views and religious beliefs. The tension caused by this is something that even an American living in this "melting pot" can't understand.

No matter how hard it is to acknowledge these horrors that are happening so far away, there is one thing about this war that makes it hit home. By watching just one half-hour segment containing footage of refugees, it is impossible to notice how much these victims look like us.

Obviously it is horrible for anyone to have to endure such uneccesary suffering, but when these people on television are wearing Levi's and Nike's, it seems as if this war is going on in our own neighborhoods, and that makes us uncomfortable.

During the Persian Gulf war when we were shown broadcasts of the war zones, it was easy to pretend that those people, who looked so different from most of us with their long dark clothes and veiled faces, were just characters in an atrocious movie. This is how we look at most other war victims too because it's easier to pretend that these bad things aren't real.

It's time to take off our rose-colored glasses and admit that things are happening that could happen to us too.

Treasure school days

By MARC MODERESSI
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Time is very precious, especially the time spent at school. We often take it for granted and once it's gone it's too late. It will never be repeated again.

That's why colleges and all academic institutions should be looked upon not just as a place where one acquires knowledge, but a sanctuary where students have extraordinary opportunities to appreciate the finer qualities of life.

To give them that opportunity we need qualifiied, caring and experienced teachers who are committed to that cause. It is they who most affect the student. They can either encourage them and prepare them for higher education, or make such an unpleasant impression upon them that they decide college is a big mistake.

How often have you heard, "Why waste time and money on school when there are so many opportunities to earn and learn out in the world?"

It is a very big job and a great responsibility not to let this happen. It is of utmost importance that this vital point be realized by parents, since not only the future of students depend on it, but also the future of the nation in particular and the world in general.

These moments can never again be realized once they are gone. A moment passed is a moment lost forever.

Mall shoppers maul merchandise

By ALEXIS SCALICE
STAR REPORTER

They're out there! There is no stopping them. Lurking in all the shopping malls is the notorious, unpredictable and destructive clientele mafia. Retail establishments are victims of this torment everyday. Sales associates and managers are no strangers to handling the careless shoppers who are always in a rush and never look back to see the damage he or she has done.

For those readers who have not had the eye opening experience of working in a high volume retail atmosphere, close your eyes for a couple of seconds.

Imagine being forced to keep your house doors open for over 10 hours. For a relatively small compensation, you clean up after hundreds of people's mess. Clothes are scattered everywhere, picture frames are knocked down, and impatient people are shouting "hurry up," in the line leading to the exit doors. The only responses you are permitted to vocalize are "Thank you, please come back again," or "What else can I help you find." Comments such as "Don't touch that," or "Could you please refrain from destroying this property?" are unheard of.

Although we live in a country based upon freedom of rights, common respect for a public establishment should not be a difficult task to accomplish. Orange peels, left over soda cups, "to go" containers or baby bottles do not belong on a clothing display or inside the dressing rooms. Modern shoppers seem to be oblivious to the idea of consideration for their fellow man. A sales associate is paid to establish a client's needs, not clean up after their uneccessary mess.

Follow the archaic golden rule "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." A day at the mall should not be a day at the zoo.

Letters to the editor

Wintrob was force behind April Fools concert

■ Normally, I see so many errors in your paper that I have ceased to bother to notice them. But your story on the April Fools concert contained an error so egregious that I feel that I must comment on it.

The director of the concert was Mrs. Dianne Wintrob not Dr. Nick Strimple. Although Dr. Strimple did perform in the concert, he did not direct it.

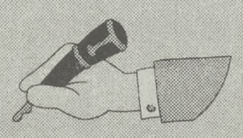
Mrs. Wintrob conceived the idea of such a concert, organized all the performers, set the program, performed in the concert, and was the master of ceremonies for the entire affair. Without her great efforts, the concert never would have happened. (As anybody in the department would have told you had you bothered to ask.) I feel it is an insult to her for you to credit someone else after she has worked so hard and I hope you understand the consequences of your carelessness.

In the future, I hope you'll check your facts before you commit them to print.

Chauncey Maddren
Instructional Assistant, Music
LAVC

Editors note: Dianne Wintrob directed the April Fools concert, not Nick Strimple. The Valley Star staff apologizes for this mistake.

We value your opinion



The Valley Star would love to receive and, if possible, publish your letters. We reserve the right to condense letters for space considerations. Letters are limited to 250 words and are subject to editing if they are obscene, libelous, or make racial, elthnic, religious, sexist or sexually oriented denigrations. They must be signed and include the student's ID number. Letters may be left at the Valley Star in BJ 114 by Friday morning for the following Thursday. They can also be placed in any of our mailboxes attached to three of our yellow news stands, or e-mail to VSTAR@ladccd.cc.ca.us.

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Cathy Koebel/ for the Star

Maria Ivey relaxes between meetings photographing landscapes, one of her favorite pastimes.

Cathy Koebel/ for the Star

Maria Ivey (right) discusses with Elia Gonzalez-Castro future plans for the documentary.

Cathy Koebel/ for the Star

Maria Ivey meets with Erika Robers (right) for the first time at the UFW offices in Watsonville, CA.

Chasing a dream

Former Valley student captures worker struggles with camera

By CATHY KOEBEL
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

As a married woman, the mother of two children and a full time student, Marie Ivey's dream of producing a documentary was answered the day she received a letter in the mail. She was ecstatic for now she could tell the story of the strawberry field workers in Watsonville, CA. It was dear to her because she had family members who had picked produce in the fields and were now suffering the consequences.

"The documentary is to make the public aware of the plight of the strawberry field workers." Ivey said. "Such conditions include exposure to chemicals, poor working conditions, low wages, no benefits and horrible living conditions."

The task of putting together a staff of writers, photographers, videographers, editing and post production crew is just begins the momentum of creating the documentary. Once this step is completed, contacts must be developed in order to gain access to the workers in the fields and at their homes. Another concern was providing student housing and/or other facilities for the staff.

Ivey began the initial step of her project by making contact by telephone with the United Farm Workers in Watsonville. Ivey developed a rapport with Erika Robers, whose position is Public Action UFW, allowing her to present her proposal for the project.

Following the conversations with the UFW she felt it was necessary to personally meet with the union representatives by going to Watsonville during spring break because she was not local to the community. This was a positive step since the UFW is suspicious of outsiders, Ivey said. Upon her arrival she met with Robers who introduced her to Elia Gonzalez-Castro, the Strawberry Workers Campaign Communications Coordinator.

"It was good that you came down," Gonzalez-Castro said. "This will make it easier to make arrangements for you later this year."

After the initial introductions, Ivey explained her project in detail. Gonzalez-Castro then invited Ivey to join her in Salinas for the 2nd annual UFW celebration of the life of its co-founder, Cesar Chavez.

Ivey will participate in "A Walk-For-Justice" being held at the Cesar Chavez Elementary School in Salinas at noon on Sunday. The event will celebrate Cesar Chavez's birthday which was on March 31.

Gonzalez-Castro will introduce Ivey to Dolores Huerta, who should be attending the walk-a-thon. Huerta was the second in command with Cesar Chavez and the first elected vice president and principal negotiator for the UFW Union.

As a result of this meeting Ivey now has access to field workers and union representatives upon her return with her staff sometime during the early part of July 1999 for completion of her documentary.

"This is perfect timing as it is the peak season for picking strawberries." Ivey said. "This trip was well worth it."

Ivey, an ex-Valley College student, received the award on Jan. 29 from the University Corporation at California State University, Northridge.

"I feel very fortunate that I received the award because to my knowledge such awards are primarily given to graduate students and I am an undergraduate," Ivey said. "I'm excited because being given the award, the school recognized me and gave me the chance to do something good for humanity."

A sum of money is made available each year according to the University Corporation, for support of student research, creative and service endeavors. These funds are from an endowment that has been put aside each year for such school projects.

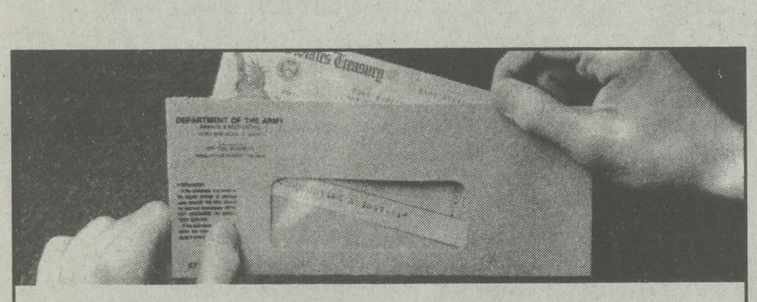
Approximately 56 applications had been sent to the University Corporation, said Elizabeth Kioussis, Assistant Executive Director at University Corporation and Staff Secretary to Students Projects Committee. Such awards are based upon the content of the proposal and the budget requested. Approximately fifty percent of the applications received awards.

Ivey's goal is to produce a narrative documentary that will consist of slides and a 30 minute video of strawberry field workers. The final product will be in video format for CSUN, other schools, the community, UFW and other labor organizations.

She began photography in the early 80's as a hobby and started taking it seriously in 1995 when she enrolled in Valley College. She has also received the 1998 Society of Professional Journalists Mark of Excellence Award.

Ivey said she keeps her sanity by photographing landscapes, wild flowers and going on an annual photo safari to the Los Angeles Zoo.

"I attribute my accomplishments to the education I have received at Valley College and CSUN, to the support from the organizations that I belong to especially the Chicano News Media Association, and the support of my family." Ivey said. "Without these forces I wouldn't have accomplished as much."



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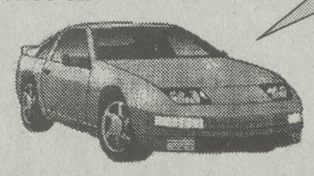

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Monarchs swim big

By HOLLY CARSON
STAR REPORTER

The Valley men's team captured the win with a 72-32 victory over East L.A. April 9. Fast times were easily achieved because of East L.A.'s large indoor, deep-water pool.

"Great water circulation makes for faster times," Bill Krauss, Valley's swim coach said. "This pool is one of the fastest in southern California."

Best performances were put in by Daniel Sandoval winning the 1000 yard freestyle in 10:48.1 and the 200 individual medley in 2:14.1. Hector Zambrano sizzled to a win in the 50 yard freestyle in 23.0 and the 100 yard freestyle in 52.4.

"Great water circulation makes for faster times. This pool is one of the fastest in southern California."
-Bill Krauss, Valley Head Coach

Not to be outdone by the men, the Lady Monarchs drowned the East L.A. women with an 80-20 victory.

"We easily won this meet as our women swimmers are starting to drop in their times," said Krauss. "Two of our ladies were triple winners at this meet."

Stephanie Hammer stroked to a triple win in the 50 yard freestyle in 26.4, the 100 yard freestyle in 57.4 and the 100 individual medley in 1:11.1. Matching her numbers with a triple win was Ramona Friedman winning the 50 yard breaststroke in 37.4, the 100 yard breaststroke in 1:20.1 and the 200 yard individual medley in 2:41.1.

The Cuesta meet at Valley on April 1 was a poor showing for the Monarchs.

"The Cuesta team is very strong," said Krauss. "Valley had poor attendance that day and it was raining about 30 minutes into the diving competition."

Dan Sandoval won the 1000 freestyle in 10:58.1 and Jon Conrad won the 200 yard backstroke in 2:12.2 for the men. Cisco Diaz won the 1-meter diving event.

The only event the women won was the 100 yard backstroke by Shawna Reid with a 1:26.1.

The final home meet is on Friday, April 16, at 2:30 p.m. at Valley against arch rival Pierce College. This is the final preparation meet before the conference finals.

Small team highlighted in loss

By JULIO CORTEZ
STAR REPORTER

The Valley College softball team suffered its 22nd loss of the season as they fell 18-4 to Bakersfield College.

The Lady Monarch attack was led by second baseman Karla Martinez going 1-for-2 with a walk and a two run homerun.

Though having a record of 4-22 over-all and a 2-9 record in the Western State Conference, the Lady Monarchs are second to last place in the South Division of the WSC.

"It's been difficult," Martinez said about the way the Lady Monarchs have been playing throughout the season. "We've been pulling through."

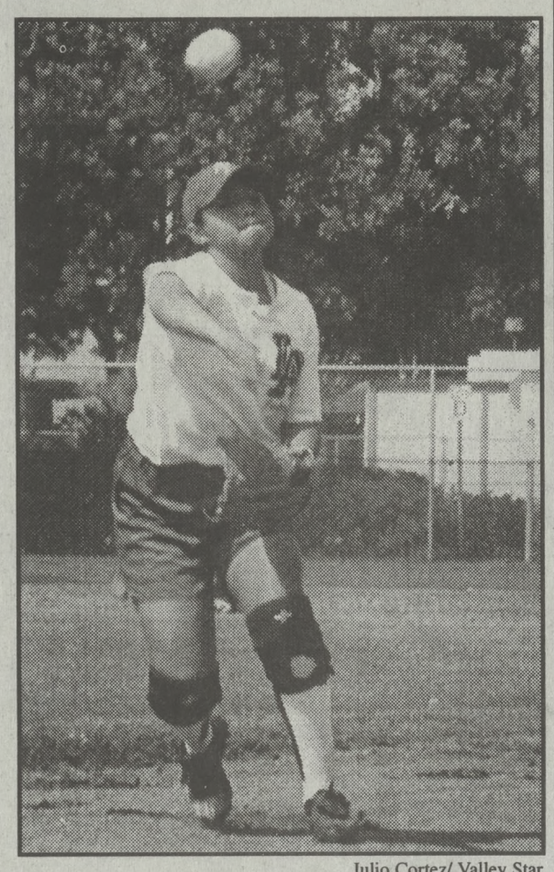
The team's struggle is partly because it carries just 10 players as a team. The team suffered a drop from the 15-player roster from the beginning of the season because of financial problems the dropping members were force to deal with.

Head Coach Jennifer Parker said that the team is improving though having a small squad and loosing.

"It's not as bad as before when we used to loose by eight, nine or ten runs," Parker said. "Now we're loosing with scores like 3-2."

Valley College is not the only school with a small softball team. There is also Pierce and Santa Monica who carry nine and 10 members each.

Once the season is finished, the Lady Monarchs will not only have to deal with a struggling season, but they will be forced to build a new team. Six of the members are sophomores. Most of the members are looking to fulfill their graduating requirements.



Julio Cortez/ Valley Star
Karla Martinez led Valley College with a two-run homer.

The only player looking at competing at the next level is Martinez who hopes to transfer either to the Cal State University level. She plans to attend either the Dominguez Hills or Bakersfield campus.

Parker, who is in her first season as the Lady Monarch's coach, has been trying to improve the team's possibilities for next season by recruiting at the local high schools.

BAXMAN'S COLUMN

Everyone relax- Lakers and NBA right on track

By BAXTER CEPEDA
STAR REPORTER

In every story great obstacles are overcome. The Lakers and NBA are no different.

Reporters and fans need to just sit back, relax and enjoy the ride as the next great dynasty grows up.

We shouldn't criticize NBC for televising so many games of an unproven team. I understand teams like Indiana and Utah probably deserve more of the attention because they are more mature.

The reality is that they just aren't as interesting as this great Laker story- even if it is in the early stages.

NBC is doing something they never did with the Lakers of the 80's or the Bulls of the 90's. They didn't cover these teams until after they started with their great success. What they are trying to do now is put us in the passenger seat wih this team. The ride will be long and at times frustrating but in the end it will be all worth while.

We will get a sense of having been part of it all along instead of just jumping on the bandwagon once the team has already arrived at its destination.

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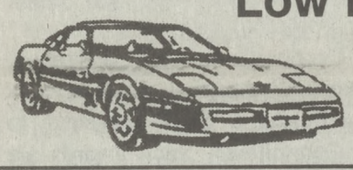
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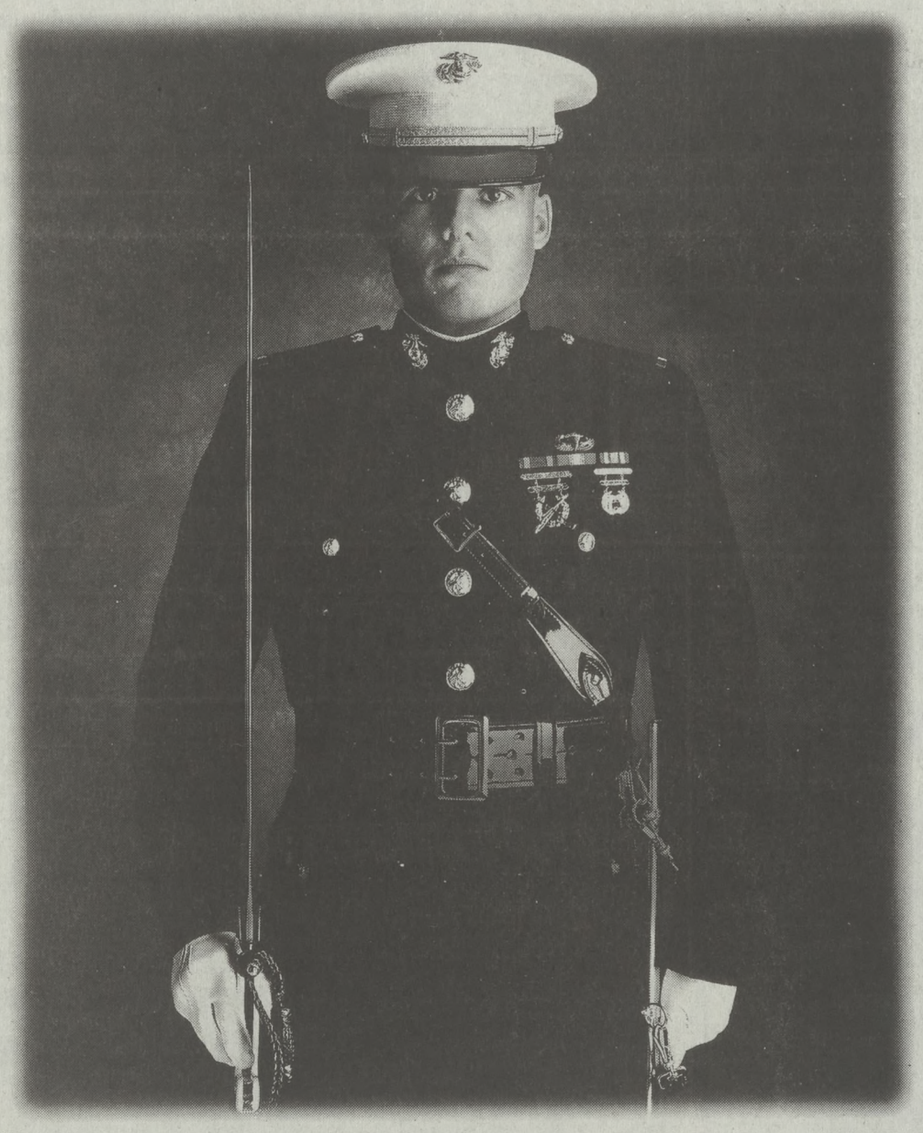
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